

# Ex-teacher found dead

THE body of a former Palmer's College teacher has been found nearly two months after he is thought to have died at home.

Kenneth Sampson, 57, was found by police after neighbours raised concerns he had not been seen for some time. It is thought he died in January.

Mr Sampson, of Rosedale Road, Grays, left work as an economics teacher at Palmer's College 16 years ago, after suffering a nervous breakdown. He had lived alone in Rosedale Road for nearly 25 years.

His next-door neighbour of six years, Beverley White, 39, said: "He was nice to talk to when I did see him, but he really did keep himself to himself and never had any visitors."

A Essex Police say the death is not being treated as suspicious.

# Date set for travellers' Pitsea appeal inquiry

AN appeal by travellers over plans to move from Crays Hill to Pitsea will be heard in the summer.

Dale Farm Housing Association, has applied to develop land at Terminus Drive, Pitsea, as a camp-site for ten of the most vulnerable families facing eviction from Dale Farm, Crays Hill.

Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17 have been earmarked to hear evidence on the appeal into Terminus Drive—first identified as a possible alternative site in 2005 by then Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. He enlisted the help of Government regeneration agency English Partnerships to identify suitable land it owned.

The travellers are also seeking judicial review of what they claim to be a change of heart by English Partnerships on the issue.

Travellers' campaigner Grattan Puxon explained: "At that time English Partnerships, a quasi-Government agency, expressed no objection to the idea.

"However, they have since refused to support the association's bid to create new homes there. It is that attitude travellers are preparing to challenge through the High Court."

● Billericay MP John Baron has now sent his views on future traveller site provision to the East of England Regional Assembly.

The assembly is suggesting Basildon should provide 81 extra official pitches.

Mr Baron, who represents both Crays Hill and Pitsea and recently gathered a 5,000-name petition against Terminus Drive, said: "I urge all local residents to submit their views."

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